

QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION



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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Community Kindergartens: Providing a Choice for Quality Education CHAPTER BRIEFING No. 9

QIEU members' message to State Government: Recognise the unique nature of community kindergartens

Dear Colleagues

QIEU members have sent a strong message to the Queensland Government regarding concerns on the process of the review of DECKAS funding.

QIEU members send more than 2,000 postcards

During the last three weeks, over 2,000 postcards have been sent by QIEU members to Queensland Members of Parliament.

The postcards have highlighted the unique nature of community kindergartens and the need for a funding regime which guarantees the on-going financial support of community kindergartens offering a sessional educational program.

QIEU is in receipt of several acknowledgements from various members of parliament providing assurances that they will forward the concerns to the Minister of Education, Training and Arts, Mr Rod Welford.

Representations to the Queensland Government

As a direct response to the QIEU member campaign, QIEU was provided with an opportunity to meet with the Minister's Policy Advisors on 3 December 2007.

At the meeting, QIEU outlined members' grave concerns regarding the decision to exclude key stakeholders, including our members, from the consideration of recommendations from the DECKAS review.

It was emphasised that QIEU fully respected and understood that ultimately a Cabinet submission based on the recommendations would be developed in confidence.

However, an opportunity for stakeholders to meet to discuss recommendations of the DECKAS review prior to submissions being prepared for Cabinet would be considered appropriate.

A specific request was made to meet with the Minister prior to any decision being made to the recommendations relating to DECKAS funding.

The Minister's Policy Advisors have noted the worthiness of the request for stakeholders to meet and have given a commitment to raise the issue directly with the Minister.

Continued member action required

The on-going financial support from the Queensland Government for community kindergartens is fundamental to the future of these centres.

QIEU members are encouraged to continue to place pressure on their local Member of Parliament by sending the "Providing a Choice" postcards and may also wish to discuss our concerns regarding the DECKAS review with non-members and parents.

Additional postcards are available by contacting your Union office on (07) 3839 7020.

Consistent member support and pressure on the Queensland Government ensures the real concerns that QIEU members and the community will be in the government's considerations when the DECKAS review's recommendations are being considered.

My best wishes for the holiday season and I thank you for what you have done in support of the sector this year.

Kind regards



**TERRY BURKE
GENERAL SECRETARY**